



THE WAY

THE NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Summer/Pentecost 2017

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Service Times

Sundays:

8 a.m., Contemplative Service

+

10 a.m., Family Service

JULY only

Morning Prayer 10 a.m.

No 8 a.m. Service

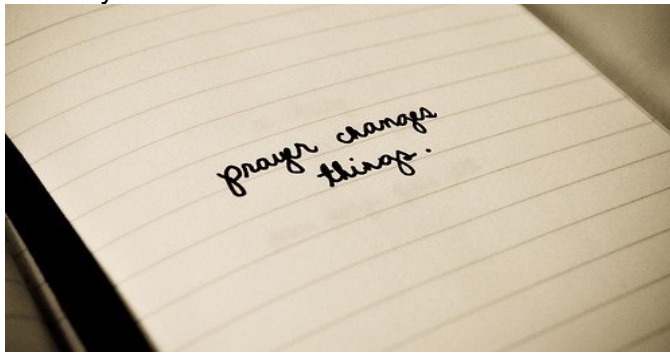
The Power of Prayer... a Lesson from a Slow Learner

Although born and raised an Episcopalian (who ended up marrying same), prayer came slowly to me. Aside from the prayers in weekly church services and an occasional "Our Father"...I don't recall praying much. It's not that I didn't believe in it, but my life seemed to go along wonderfully with minimal planning and even less prayer.

In the last 30 years, however, I have had occasion to pray...at first, mostly on my own behalf. One example of proof to me of the value of prayer took place in the summer of 1983. When I began teaching at Roosevelt Junior High School in 1972, I found myself teaching the eighth-grade Social Studies curriculum- American History the first year followed by the Afro-Asian Culture Studies in 9th grade. Roosevelt was unique for we followed our students - or they us - for three years - 7 then 8 then 9th...so you really got to know and appreciate the students and their families. It was my first experience with the ninth-grade curriculum when I discovered my love of that course. I learned so much. So, while at Roosevelt, I got to teach it every 3 years.

Finally, the Syracuse city school district decided to move all ninth-graders to the four high schools. I then wanted to move to a high school to teach ninth-grade Social Studies. I wrote letters to the four high school principals asking to be considered. By then we had bought a house right across the street from Corcoran. I had enjoyed my ten years at Roosevelt, the feeder school for Corcoran, so I was hoping to teach there. However, I had earlier turned the principal down to go there to teach in an alternative program and it was not likely he would then want me. I did end up with an alternative program at Nottingham.

At the end of the year at Nottingham, I was lined up to teach in the Summer School program at Corcoran- totally independent of Corcoran's regular school year staff and administration.



One day, though, I happened to stop in the Corcoran Office. The principal, Dr. Gordon Hershberger, had gotten back from a vacation trip and had found a resignation letter on his desk. It was for the Occupational Learning Center at Corcoran- the same program I had taught in at Nottingham. He offered it to me and I accepted it. It wasn't teaching 9th graders Afro-Asian Culture Studies but it was getting me in the door at Corcoran!

And here's when the prayer started in earnest. Prior to this I don't recall praying in earnest for much of anyone or anything. But now I started. Every day on my way to and from Corcoran Summer School - where I was teaching the favorite course - 311 steps each way from our front door to the Corcoran loading dock - I asked God to let me teach 9th grade. I don't believe I missed a day or a step.

Well, summer school ended and the regular school year was about to start. The prayers continued even as I somewhat reluctantly prepared for my new role as job coach in the OLC. Prayers continued. Finally, the first day after Labor Day I went to school - no students the first day - and went to the OLC to begin with lots of meetings. Suddenly around 9 a.m. there was an "All Call"... "Mr. Miller, please report to the main office." It was Dr. Hershberger. In trepidation, being called to the office is not an exciting option for anyone - staff or student—so I went quickly.

"Mr. Miller," Dr. Hershberger simply said. "There's been a change of plans. You're now going to be teaching five classes of ninth-grade Afro-Asian Culture Studies! You'll be in Room A-323." No explanation. No congratulations. Just a simply directive!

Head spinning, I went up to my new classroom. I had to be ready to greet 5 classes of ninth-graders tomorrow morning. "Thank you, Lord!" My prayers had been answered totally!

What had transpired, as revealed later, was that none of the veteran Social Studies teachers wanted to teach ninth-graders. They were an anathema to all veteran high-school teachers throughout the district. Dr. Hershberger had issued a directive to the Social Studies department over that summer to come up with who would be teaching ninth-graders - likely 125 sections. They hadn't come up with the solution. One Social Studies teacher did - she took it upon herself and retired without telling anyone. She simply didn't show up for the first day of school!

So, thanks to the power of prayer, I now had my own classroom and five classes of Global Studies for the next 20 years until I retired in 2004!

"Thank you, Lord!" ~ Jim Miller

Join us for



‘SUNDAES ON FRIDAYS’

Ice Cream Socials are held at the church on the second Friday of summer months from 6-8 p.m.:

- **July 14**
- **August 11**
- **Sept. 8**

Enjoy neighborhood company while savoring Byrne Dairy Ice Cream Sundaes with your favorite fixings...

For just \$1.00!

And you can place your Food \$en\$e order at the same time!



Grand Ultreya Picnic

Attention Cursillistas

Grand Ultreya Picnic; Saturday July 15, 2017 from Noon until....

Dwyer Park, Little York, NY

Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided.

Bring a dish to pass, your own table service. Don't forget your song book. CNY Ultreya Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month at St Matthews; Liverpool 7pm

No July or August meetings.

Next meeting: Sept. 20th



Hugging a Porcupine



He is ours.

He was ours when he arrived in kindergarten thirteen years ago – precocious, curious, and bursting with spirit. His blue plaid shirt brought out the tint of

his eyes and his bountiful smile brought joy to those around him. He was smart, impish, naturally clever, and full of promise. He was five.

He was ours when learning became more challenging in second grade. When his emerging struggles with dyslexia and distractibility started to manifest themselves in emotional outbursts and disruptive behaviors.

He was ours when he began to indiscriminately hit and kick other kids on the playground. He was ours when he drew an intricate picture of a prairie landscape in art class, amazing us all with his innate artistic talent. He was seven.

He was ours when he began testing the limits of acceptable classroom behavior. When his self-esteem began to slowly die and his personality turned increasingly stormy.

He was ours when he intentionally punched his teacher in the arm in third grade and threw a book at another child's head. When he curled up in a corner of the room, hyperventilated, cried, and said he was sorry. He was nine.

He was ours in fifth grade when his parents divorced and when he witnessed his 54-year-old grandmother die after an excruciating battle with cancer. We were there when his dad remarried and moved to California, the last time he's seen his father.

He was ours when his mother lost another job after showing up drunk at work.

He was ours when the home he'd lived in all his life went through foreclosure and when his mother and he moved into a local shelter.

He was ours when he started stealing and tormenting smaller kids at the bus stop. He was 11.



He was ours when his beautiful, infectious smile retired and the darkness began to encircle him.

He was ours when we had to reassure the other children in his seventh-grade class they were safe, despite his nearly constant threats.

He was ours when he stopped doing homework, when he stopped caring about his grades and when he started skipping school to play violent video games.

He was ours when he tried his first cigarette, drank his first beer, popped his first pills, smoked his first joint, and became sexually active. He was 14.

He was ours when he got suspended for fighting, for chronic disruptive behavior, for cussing out a teacher, for breaking a computer.

He was ours when we couldn't find his mom to pick him up on the day he said he was going to hurt himself after "taking out a few others." When he told his counselor he wished he'd never been born.

He was ours when the police handcuffed him and delivered him to the local adolescent care center. He was 15.

He was ours six months later when his mom died of an overdose in the back seat of a drug dealer's car.

He was ours when he returned to school as a hollow shell of his previous self, nearly cata-

tonic from his prescribed regimen of daily depression medications.

He was ours when a caring teacher decided to take a chance and bring him into her family's home. When the color came back to his eyes.

He was ours when he won the grand prize in the Philbrook Museum's Young Artist contest.

He was ours when he found a counselor he trusted, who took the time to listen and who was patient enough to peel through the many layers of anger and angst surrounding his soul to discover the sad, insecure, yet lovable boy inside.

He was ours when he recovered his smile again. When he joined a local church youth group and found meaning in his life.

He was ours when a beautiful girl with deep blue eyes and an angel's heart gave him a reason to love himself again. He was 17.

He will be ours when he walks across the stage next month at graduation. When he hugs his adoptive mom and dad and says, "I love you. Thank you for saving my life." He will be ours when he leaves our school in May to become the best version of what he can be.

This child is ours. He is smart and bright and kind and troubled and hurt and angry. For 13 years, he has struggled mightily to overcome trauma, despair, learning challenges, and a self-defeating mentality. He wrestled for most of his young life to keep himself balanced, to calm his inner demons, to make friends, to trust adults, to show compassion, to love himself, and to learn with any consistency. To simply be a kid.

You see, he was always ours. He belongs to us as much as the star quarterback, the future Ivy League scholar, the homecoming queen, and the valedictorian. For much of his schooling, he was tough to love. We didn't want to own him. If you have been in education very long, especially in a larger district, you have met "him" or "her," likely more than once. These children frustrate us, make us angry, and cause us to cry. They cause us to question our effectiveness as educators and the meaning and value of our work.

It hurts to get close to children like "him." It's like hugging a porcupine. But they are ours, and *hugging porcupines* is occasionally the most important part of our job.

A core belief I hold tightly is this: When children are in our schools, they are our kids. All. Of. Them. If a kid walks through the doors of our public school, we should see them, listen to them, push them, care for them, support and believe in them as if they are our own.

When we help these children survive and thrive – academically, socially, and emotionally – we are reminded of the beliefs and passion that power our work as educators. All kids can learn. We know how to teach them. Together, we have what it takes.

All the kids at our schools are "ours." For some, we have but a brief opportunity to do the one thing – the RIGHT thing – to change the course of their life in a positive way. What an awesome privilege and frightening burden that is.

This much is certain. This boy is ours.

And when you take the chance to *hug a porcupine* like him, the reward will be yours.

Website: vivewfromtheedge.net, Oklahoma Educator, Rob Miller

Photo credit: <http://www.healthforteens.co.uk/feelings/anger-management/>



CIRCLE V NEWS

Just a reminder that the rest of the meetings for the group will be: Aug. 3rd, Oct. 5th, and for the Christmas luncheon, either Dec. 7th or the 14th. All of those dates are on Thursdays, and the times will be noon. As always, bring your own lunch, drinks and desserts will be provided. Hostesses (the dessert bringers) for those months are (August) Carol G. and Jane S, (October) Sally T. and Ethel A., and (December) Barb W. and Nancy M.

The personal care bags given with the food pantry items need replenishing, particularly the men's items: shampoo, toothpastes and brushes, bar soap, feminine products, deodorants (men's and women's), baby oil, razors (men's and women's), washcloths, shaving creams, tissues, toilet paper, combs, hand sanitizers.

Mustang Retreat

The Mustangs have a women's retreat planned for Friday, Sept. 22 through Sunday, Sept. 24, at

St. Margaret's House in New Hartford and there is room available for women who are interested in attending. The cost is \$115 and partial scholarships are available. Please contact Debra Richardson at 315-395-4203 for more information.



UNDERCROFT FURNISHINGS MEMORIALS

As you may recall a year ago we invited you to make a memorial donation honoring your loved ones in the form of the new furnishings in the Undercroft.

A plaque has been designed and updated to reflect the early donors. Some of the listings are for deceased parishioners by their loved ones. Others are from parishioners in thanksgiving.

**Pat Walmsley in memory
of Clere Walmsley (1943-1991)**

Otis Shuart

Marion Williams

Barry & Marilyn Guinn

**Ron and Madeleine Bort in memory
of Frank & Maude Walter**

Dennis & Jacalyn Eberline

Jim & Kitty Miller

A number of the furnishings are still available to be named or you may make a general donation. Be sure to specify the names and dates of the person(s) to be memorialized.

Checks may be made payable to St Mark's and earmarked "Undercroft Furnishings."

Ready to Give Up on Evangelism? Read This First...

By Courtney Crouch

Have you ever watched someone make a decision after a decision that seemed to wreck their life?

It's a heart-wrenching experience when someone you care about is blind to what they're doing to themselves by making poor choices. Bad decisions have a snowball-effect. You know someone is walking into trouble when they rationalize decisions by saying:

This really isn't that big of a deal.

I can handle it.

Would it really be that bad?

Jesus won't let us walk away from Him for too long without calling us back to Him. But when someone we love doesn't know Jesus, and we know that they need salvation, we can take that burden onto ourselves instead of surrendering them to God.

And if we're not careful, carrying that weight will make us never want to share our faith again.

Three Things To Remember When You're Ready To Give Up

1. Every conversation matters.

1 Corinthians 3:5-8 compares sharing the gospel with gardening. Your conversation with a friend or family member plants the seed. Future conversations water the seed, but only God can cause the seed to grow.

When you invite a co-worker to church, share your story with a friend, or ask that estranged family member to coffee, you're planting a seed. You may not be the person who sees that person ask Jesus into his or her life, but that doesn't make your role in their spiritual journey any less important.

2. Behavior is the symptom, not the problem.

If someone doesn't know Jesus Christ, they are without hope. Each of us is born with a hunger to know and grow closer to God. Along the way, we try to fill our lives with possessions or relationships in an effort to feel whole. Instead of filling our hearts with Jesus' love, we make idols of the things that temporarily bring relief.

If someone doesn't know Jesus, that's the biggest need in their lives. Trying to change someone's behavior is like putting a Band-Aid on a bullet hole. A change in behavior might last for a day or two, but a change of heart will last forever.

"Trying to change someone's behavior is like putting a Band-Aid on a bullet hole."

3. Let God be God. You be Jesus.

Pastor Steven Furtick once said, "Let God be God. You be Jesus." The more time I spend with Jesus, the more I look and act like Him. My relationship with Jesus should be nearly impossible to hide (Matthew 5:14).

I may not get the chance to walk everyone I meet through the Gospel. But because I know Jesus, a hurting person can still recognize characteristics of Jesus through their friendship with me. Because I trust Jesus and believe He died for everyone, I can trust that the Lord will use my friendship and example to draw others to Him.

If you are following Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit guiding you. John 14:26 describes the Holy Spirit as our helper, sent from God, to help us remember all that Jesus said and did.

Jesus can, and did, change people immediately. But more often than not, change happens over time. When we're discouraged because it feels like we're not making a difference, remember this: If we can help someone take one step closer to Jesus, that's progress. And we're all in a state of progress.

As Christians, we have to trust that what God says is true. Jesus died for everyone and He is just as discontent — if not more so — to see that person living apart from Him. Romans 5:20 says that where sin increased, grace abounded all the more. No one is too broken or too far gone for God's grace. Not even the person you're ready to give up on.

<https://newspring.cc/articles/ready-to-give-up-on-evangelism-read-this-first>



Fill That Bag!

Ahhhhhh ... the sound you make on a hot summer day when you take that cool refreshing sip of bottled water. Maybe it's the sound you make taking a sip of a soda or of an alcoholic beverage. Relaxing, you finish your beverage and toss the bottle or can into the bag of returnable cans and bottles. Suddenly, that bag is full and you face the dreaded task of dragging that bag to the store or redemption center.

We have a wonderful solution for you. DONATE that bag to the Youth Group of St. Mark the Evangelist Church. There are two collection bins located in the church. The bottles and cans will be brought to the redemption center and the money will be directly deposited in a fund earmarked for our Youth Group. The money will be used for their mission trip and other upcoming events.

Perhaps you don't want to drag that bag to church. Guess what? If you talk to Phyllis Honsinger or call her at (315) 214-9847, she will personally come to your home to pick them up and return them for you. No amount of cans and **BottleFres** is too little or too much. You can also return them yourself to Bottle Return in Western Lights Plaza and ask the attendant to deposit the funds in the account for St. Mark's Youth Group.

As you gather with family and friends for picnics, barbeques, parties or just a relaxing time on your deck, remember to save those bottles and cans. Not only will you be helping the Youth Group, but you'll be helping the environment too! Thank you!



BOTTLE AND CAN COLLECTION to benefit the Youth Group at St. Mark the Evangelist Church

Bring your empties to church and place in the collection bin or to schedule a pick-up call Phyllis Honsinger (315) 214-9847

Summer Ministry Schedule:

JULY 2017

	<u>July 2</u>	<u>July 9</u>	<u>July 16</u>	<u>July 23</u>	<u>July 30</u>
OFFICIANT	Jim O.	Jim O.	Gary N.	Dana M.	Dana M.
GOSPEL & SERMON	Gary N.	Dana M.	Dana M.	Gary N.	Gary N.
GREETERS & USHERS	Marie B & Phyllis H.	Barb W. & Phyllis H.	Jackie E. & Carol G.	Bob K. & Ernestine L.	Sally T. & Pat D.
LECTOR	Kathi P.	Noah H.	Forrest A.	Warren O.	Kayley R.
V.P.O.D.	Barry G.	Tommy M.	Jim M.	Phyllis H.	Julie D.
ALTAR GUILD	Team C	Team D	Team B	Team C	Team D

From the Archives ... 20 Years ago in The Way

Trinity Sundaes [1998]

Sunday, June 7th, was Trinity Sunday. In keeping with tradition, we again celebrated with an Ice Cream Social following the 10:00 service. This has proven to be a delicious event in the past, and this year looked to be no different. Thanks to Dana Marzynski and Nancy Morrison.

(Ed.Note: This is a tradition brought over from Trinity Church when the new parish of St. Mark the Evangelist was formed from All Saints, Calvary, St. Mark's and Trinity in 2006)

BAPTISM [1998]

Congratulations to Tom and Dana Marzynski in the baptism of their daughter on Sunday, May 24. Welcome, Stefania Renee, to our parish family.

And now, congratulations to Stefania, who was awarded one of ten \$1,000 college scholarships at the annual Polish Festival in Clinton Square June 24th!!

In 'Cars 3,' Humility Finishes First Over Generational Conflict

The classic Pixar franchise returns with a refreshing look at what it means to pass the torch onward.

By S.D. Kelly

Cars 3 opens in the same way as the original Cars, with Lightning McQueen, the central character, sitting in his trailer before a big race. As usual, McQueen is prepping for the race with a little motivational self-talk: "Focus. Speed. I am speed," he says to himself. "One winner, 42 losers. I eat losers for breakfast." After this line, however, the scene goes in a different direction; McQueen follows up with, "Wait. Did I really used to say that?" It's as if he still can't believe that he used to be such a jerk.

It's a clear signal from the start that, all these years later, McQueen remains a nice car. The lessons he learned in the original film are still with him. Free of ego, he has the same rundown sponsors and lives in the same rundown town (the economic boom viewers saw in Radiator Springs at the end of Cars having apparently been a passing one), yet he is at the top of his industry—a racing superstar.

The problem that McQueen has in Cars 3 has less to do with the out-of-control ego of the original and more to do with something far more intractable: He is getting old. A good percentage of his demographic can relate, as many of the parents who took their kids to see Cars when it was first released in 2006 are now approaching middle-age right along with McQueen himself.

Getting old isn't fun, whether you are a human being or an animated racecar, and it's not long before McQueen's legacy is threatened as he is out-run by the next generation of cars. Thanks to en-



hanced technology and data-driven training, these cars are fast, and McQueen doesn't have a chance against them. In short, then, Cars 3 turns out to be a story about millennials and gen-Xers—and since seemingly everything in culture has become about intergenerational disconnect, it makes sense that the film explores the same territory.

The good news is that, when the film does cover familiar sociological ground, it takes the conversation in a different direction, avoiding the tropes of the characters' surprise at discovering that young folk having something to teach their elders and that old folks are useful to have around. Instead, the story takes for granted that things inevitably change, that communication between generations is difficult, and racecars—even the best ones—get old and have to figure out their next move.

What is especially distinctive about Cars 3 (beyond the obvious fact that it ignores the travesty that is Cars 2 and returns our beloved Mater both to being a supporting character and to Radiator Springs—two places in which he shines) is that nothing is especially distinctive. The movie is standard narrative fare, presented in a thoughtful, visually compelling way. Cars 3 is not trying to be innovative, and that is the central part of its appeal, especially for a parental audience (and arguably their children) worn down by the trend of reinventing the wheel when it comes to storytelling.

Instead, Cars 3 simply and in generally charming fashion looks at what it means, exactly, to consider one's legacy. McQueen is offered a couple of options: Does he want to preserve his superstardom—his brand—at its peak? Quit racing while he is still valuable, in consumer terms? Or does he want to think about pressing on, staying on the track even when it is impossible to win?

McQueen answers this question by looking to the past. He looks toward the legacy of his mentor, Doc Hudson, before going beyond Doc Hudson to the community of mid-20th century cars that taught him. And, in a refreshing twist that pushes the story past sentimentalism, McQueen also looks toward the future—not in the sense of his own future, but the future of racing as represented by Cruz Ramirez, the young trainer assigned to McQueen by the fancy sponsor who bought out McQueen's rustbucket former patrons.

Cruz Ramirez is not necessarily driven by technology, but she is driven by cutting edge methods, encouraging McQueen to motivate through visualization and even managing to get him on the car version of the yoga mat in her training studio (with a "carmaste" poster on the wall). McQueen, being an old dog, isn't interested in learning new tricks, and sure enough, he drags Ramirez outside to ex-



Image: Courtesy of Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

perience the breeze and grit of a dirt track and a sandy beach. The most enjoyable extended scene of the movie ensues when these expensive racecars find themselves in a Crazy 8 demolition derby. For anyone from a rural community, where demolition derbies have real cultural status, the scene is a reminder that watching Crazy 8 racing offers some of the highest quality, lowest common denominator entertainment around—and, it turns out, an animated Crazy 8 race is just as fun to watch.

Not entirely unexpectedly, McQueen ends up transferring his outsized ambition and intense desire to continue to win races, even at his advanced age, to Cruz. The best part, though, is that he does so without sublimating her own ambition and her own dreams of her career. It is a lovely depiction of each generation bringing the best of themselves to their interactions—and, more importantly, a depiction of legacy-building not often seen: the tricky part about transference.

This is a topic close to the heart of Christian families especially. How do parents pass on the culture of a timeless faith to their children while still allowing their children to belong to their own generation and express their faith accordingly? Such transference—not of regeneration, but of the beauty of a life built on faith—can only take place in an atmosphere of mutual respect. As children grow up and ask questions, expressing to their parents, their teachers, and pastors all the specific difficulties of

coming to faith in their own place and time, their parents must take these difficulties seriously, just as they expect their children to respond to the parents' callout to history. "A liking for history has never been common among the young," the historian and social critic Jacques Barzun wrote. "It is a mature taste that calls for some experience of life."

In *Cars 3*, McQueen understands this intuitively. The lessons of history, of Doc Hudson and his generation, of McQueen and the citizens of Radiator Springs, can be passed on to Cruz and her generation of racecars, technological dominance notwithstanding—but only if the willingness to cede the dais is passed on as well.

S.D. Kelly is an editor for Christ and Pop Culture. She lives with her family in coastal Massachusetts, where she runs a community nonprofit.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/june-web-only/in-cars-3-humility-wins-day-over-generational-conflict.html>



Cheerful Notes



From the time when I was a small boy I remember my father showing me pictures in the clouds. We would look at the summer skies, and Dad would point out to me clouds that looked like bears, poodles, alligators, and other likenesses and the air currents would sculpt and remold the cumulus masses into one image after another.

To this day I still take delight in watching the clouds and think-

ing of my father.

So you can imagine the delight I had one Sunday in 1960, when cartoonist Charles Shultz drew a colorful "Peanuts" cartoon that brought back those memories! The cartoon showed "Good Old" Charlie Brown, Lucy, the fussy budget, and her younger brother, the precocious Linus, lying on their backs at the top of a hill and gazing at the clouds. Lucy said, "If you use your imagination, you can see lots of things in the cloud formations. What do you think you see, Linus?" Linus replied, "Well, those clouds up there look to me like the map of British Honduras on the Caribbean... that cloud up there looks a little like the profile of Thomas Eakins, the famous painter and sculptor... and that group of clouds over there gives me the impression of the stoning of Stephen... I can see the Saul of Tarsus standing there to one side holding cloaks!" Lucy said, "Uh, huh, that's very good. What do you see in the clouds, Charlie Brown?" Charlie Brown, looking alarmed, answers, "Well, I was going to say I saw a ducky and a horsey, but I've changed my mind!"

In the Old Testament, God used a pillar of cloud to lead His people through the wilderness; and at times He appeared veiled in a cloud to speak to His prophets... all but Moses, to whom He appeared face to face, because, in the Lord's words, "he (the humble Moses) is faithful in all my house." (Numbers 12: 7-8) Since our God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever, it should not seem surprising to His people in this age if God should occasionally choose to send his faithful ones a message in the clouds.

One Saturday afternoon while I was out driving, I

was grieving over the state of our dear United States of America, conceived in liberty by God-fearing men and dedicated, as Abraham Lincoln so eloquently once spoke, to the proposition that all men are created equal! While I was driving I began crying out to the Lord to somehow heal our land, which has become so torn by division, strife, and greed in the quest of many of our leaders for absolute power over their opposition, and over all of us as well! I was really hurting inside as I was remembering the latest diatribes I had heard on the news! But I'll never forget what happened next!

We had experienced severe thunderstorms in this area until just past mid-afternoon. I had been fretting about the weather, as well as the news, all morning, as I had several errands to run and wanted to stay dry while accomplishing them. There were dark clouds in my mind, as well as in the sky. The storm had let up and then stopped, so I had jumped into the car and headed for the first store on my list, to buy some vitamins, thinking that even if my mind was troubled, my body could still be strong.

I made my purchase and pulled out of the now sunlit store parking area to head east. At that moment, I was amazed to see right in front of me the back edge of the large storm system that was now slowly moving eastward and away from our area. The mountainous black thunderheads rose high, a breathtaking contrast with the blue and sunny sky directly overhead and all the way back to the western horizon.

Suddenly, on that foreboding canvas of black clouds God began to paint for me! Out of nowhere an oval of pure white cumulus clouds appeared in



the middle of the black thunderheads, as if the Divine artist was applying a layer of white gesso to a discolored canvas. I slowed my car in amazement as I saw the white clouds in the oval become quite active and form, in grey-tone bas relief, the perfect side view likeness of the American Eagle of our Great Seal, holding arrows in his left claw. It was such a vivid image that I gasped out a "Thank you, Lord!" for sheer beauty of the sight and its lifting of my soul!

As I was marveling at the scene, the clouds which

had held the eagle's image for maybe a minute, began to shift and, like a kaleidoscope, formed another grey-tone bas relief image which literally took my breath away! In the white oval I now saw a vivid cloud sculpture of the Father of Our Country, George Washington, on his knees with his hands folded in prayer and his face looking up to the heavens, much like the paintings we have seen of the beloved General praying for his men and his infant country in the snows and bitter cold of Valley Forge. As I drove slowly to the east, this image held still in the clouds for a few minutes and then began to move again... just enough for me to see Washington bow his head as he continued to pray. For the last mile of my journey there was no more movement in the oval of clouds, while the dark thunderheads continued to billow above, below, and on each side of God's cloud masterwork! Washington continued in prayer, and I shouted my praise and thanks to God for the beautiful way He had ministered to my anxiety and my fears. He once had answered General Washington's prayers at Valley Forge and gave him and his brave men the ultimate miraculous victory of and the freedom to establish our Nation Under God!



In that wonderful moment I was assured that healing will also come to us in this troubled time... IF we, God's people, will humble ourselves and pray as Washington had done! God has made that promise to us in 2 Chronicles 7: 14: ***If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.***

~ Warren Ottey, Music Director

Rainbows, Sun and Dragonflies...Oh, My!

This past week, my husband and I not only celebrated the Fourth of July, but our wedding anniversary as well. Three years ago, Jerry, and I were married on the beach at Southwick Beach State Park. These last three years have been fun and crazy and full of love and this year, we went back to Southwick to camp with friends and celebrate.



Now, as most everyone knows, this spring wreaked havoc with the beaches in Upstate New York and as we walked from our campsite to the water, the impact fully hit us. There truly was no beach. The beautiful sandy shore where we had stood under our little arch, said our vows and performed our sand ceremony was now completely under water, reminding me of how fragile the things we take for granted will always be there really are. And although I am sure that the beach will be resurrected at some point from its current watery abode, I realize it may return a little different from its former self. As we all do when we are overcome with adversity. But if we

hold onto God through it all, we can only come out better.

I am happy to report that, unlike the beach, our marriage has stood firm and grows stronger with each passing year, regardless of the sand that is kicked out from beneath our feet from time to time. Just the other day I was reading what I had shared on Facebook after our wedding and, as it truly highlights the awesomeness of God and as it is the July newsletter, I thought I would share it with all of you.

God bless and enjoy your summer!

"I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." (Genesis 9:13)

(July 4, 2014)

I got married this weekend. On the Fourth of July, actually, to a man I know God brought to me. We love to camp and our friends thought a beach wedding

while camping would be perfect. One of our friends performed the ceremony on the beach under an arbor given to us by a special couple and all our friends and families pulled together to cater it and make it the most memorable and special wedding I could have hoped for.

But the miracles really began when I stepped onto the beach to marry Jerry, the man I love more than anything.

It was right before sunset and the day had been bright and warm. But, only minutes before I was to head to the beach where our friends, family and my future husband were waiting, the sky darkened and it began to sprinkle. My sister, LeeAnne, who was standing up for me, was concerned I might be upset, but for some reason it made me even calmer. I just told her, "I will take whatever God gives us." It rained on the short drive to the beach with my mom, sister and my son, who was going to walk me to the arbor. In my hands I carried a picture of my dad, who had passed away three years ago. How I wish he could have been there; I know he would have loved Jerry.

As we walked toward the beach, the sky began to brighten and just as I stepped onto the beach to head toward my love, the rain stopped and the sun shined brightly once more. My son, Devon, and I walked to the arbor, hand in hand, smiling and sharing a few affectionate words. I hugged him before walking over to give my mom the picture of my dad. Just as I handed it to her, I heard people saying, "Look, a rainbow." And sure enough, there was a rainbow just beyond my mom as she took my dad's picture from me. Tears filled my eyes as I realized he was here, sharing this special day with me.

During the ceremony, it began to lightly sprinkle once more but I did not care. I was so happy and before the ceremony was through, the rain stopped and



another even bigger and complete rainbow emerged through the clouds. This one I knew was from my heavenly Father.

After the ceremony, my sister ran over to me and with tears in her eyes, said, "Did you see that? Daddy was here." Hugging her, I said I knew he was.

While pictures were being taken on the crimson and gold sunset-filled beach, our friend Kristi came over to me with tears in her eyes, holding something in her cupped hands. She leaned over to me and said, "Mary is here and I know she approves and is happy for you both." Confused at what she was talking about, I looked down as she opened her hands, revealing a dragonfly that she said had somehow made its way to her and landed on her shoulder.

Now I understood. You see, Mary had been Kristi's best friend; and she had also been Jerry's wife and the love of his life. Jerry's heart was broken four years ago when Mary was killed in a car accident.



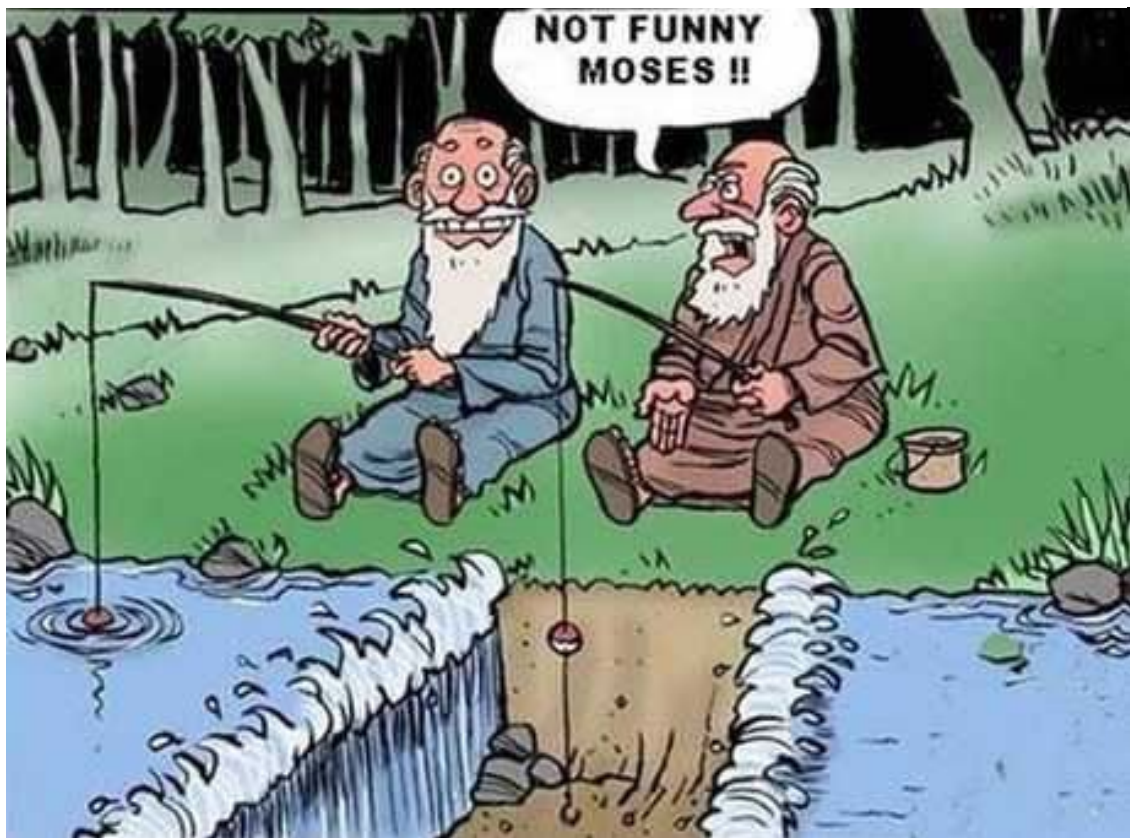
She absolutely loved dragonflies. I believe she knows how much I love this man who was the love of her life and trusts that I will take good care of him. It was so comforting to know she approved because I knew I had some beautifully big shoes to fill. Yet another amazing miracle on this wonderful day.

As we snapped the last photo and prepared to leave the beach, my mind was swimming with all that had just happened. We had seen sun, rain, the sun and the moon shining together, two rainbows, and a very special dragonfly. All symbolic, all coming together to celebrate our true love and God's covenant of marriage. I know this marriage is blessed beyond anything I could ever have imagined...

~Debra Denny, Church Secretary



**“Wireless communication is nothing new.
I’ve been praying for 75 years!”**



A Recipe You'll Love: Honey Broiled Salmon



Serves four

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. salmon fillets*
- 1 tbsp. honey
- 1 tbsp. rice wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp. soy sauce
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 scallion, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Whisk scallion, soy sauce, vinegar, garlic, and honey in a medium bowl until honey is dissolved.

1. Place salmon in a sealable plastic bag and add half of the honey/soy sauce mixture. Marinate for 30-60 minutes in the refrigerator.
2. Preheat the broiler. Line a small baking pan with foil and coat with cooking spray.
3. Transfer the salmon to the pan and broil 4-6 inches from the heat source until cooked through (6-10 minutes). Drizzle cooked salmon with the remaining marinade.

*Ingredient in Food \$en\$e package.

JULY 2017 Menu

Westside

FOOD \$EN\$E

@ St. Mark's

Inquiries can be made at:

(315) 488-8511 or (315) 378-4908

Email: stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com

**Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
StMarkTheEvangelistEpiscopal-
ChurchSyracuseNewYork/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarkTheEvangelistEpiscopalChurchSyracuseNewYork/)**

July Package*:

- Chicken Kababs, 1 lb.
- Ground Beef, 1 lb.
- Flounder Fillets, 1 lb.
- Turkey Burgers, 2 lbs.
 - Bologna, 1 lb.
 - Cavetelli Pasta, 1 lb.
- Fresh Potato Salad, 16 oz.
- Pork & Beans, 15 oz.
- Sweet Potatoes, 15 oz.
 - Pears, 15 oz.
- Fresh Produce Item 1
- Fresh Produce Item 2

When can I sign up?

**Sunday July 9 & 16
10am –12 noon**

**Friday, July 14
6-8 p.m.**

Cash or EBT are accepted. No checks.

(EBT customers must bring card and sign a

What is Food \$en\$e??

What is it? Food \$en\$e offers the opportunity to stretch your food budget by purchasing quality food at a discount.

Who is eligible? EVERYONE is eligible to purchase food from Food \$en\$e. No donated food is used in this program. It's a buying club -- so there is no income requirement.

How does it work? It's Simple. Order and pay in advance at our site. **Cost is \$20.50** per unit. Multiple units may be purchased, and/or single specials -- YOU choose!

July Specials:

Chicken Leg Quarters: 5 lbs. for \$5.00 - The chicken quarters are in a tray pack and average 5 lbs. per special.

Beef Patties: 2 lbs. for \$5.50 - The beef patties are made from 80/20 ground beef.

Chicken Patties: 10 for \$11.50 - The chicken patties are fully cooked.

Mozzarella Sticks: 2 lbs. for \$6.00 - The mozzarella sticks are par cooked and for the oven or fryer.

Produce Box: \$15.00 - The produce box includes four peaches, five nectarines, five oranges, two pounds red seedless grapes, one golden pineapple, and one cantaloupe.

Italian Sausage: 3 lbs. for \$10.50 - The Italian sausage is a sweet sausage and locally made in Utica, NY.

Stuffed Shells: 48 oz. for \$5.25 - The shells are precooked, then stuffed with ricotta cheese, eggs, and spices (add sauce and bake or microwave).

Pick-Up Date & Time:

Wednesday, July 26

12pm-2pm



Hazard Branch Calendar

Onondaga County Public Library July 2017

1620 W. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13204 • 435-5326 • www.onlib.org

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 9 - 5 Tuesday and Thursday 9 - 7:30

The library will be closed Tuesday, July 4, for Independence Day.

Summer Learning Program: Build A Better World

"Build A Better World" is open to preschoolers through students entering 6th grade. Children may read independently or have books read to them by parents or caregivers. The program includes weekly special events as well as incentive awards for each reader. Register today!

For Toddlers

Toddler Summer Storytimes

Wednesdays, July 5, 12, 19 and 26, 10:30 a.m.

Join Miss Lauren each week for stories, songs, crafts and more designed for toddlers. This summer's themes include: July 5 picnics; July 12 bugs; July 19 the beach; July 26 pirates. For ages 2-3. All children must be with a guardian and siblings of all ages are welcome to join.

For Children

Walk-In! Create It!

Monday, July 3 through Saturday, August 19

Stop in and make a craft on your own. Check out this month's themes: July 3-15 Fourth of July Fireworks; July 17-29 Giant Popsicles; and July 31-August 12 Jellyfish.

The Magic of Reading Show

Thursday, July 6, 2:00 p.m.

Follow Jeff the Magic Man on a fun journey through Magical Storyland! You will see a cat with a hat and will even be made honorary wizards at the Warthogs School of Wizards! For ages 5-12. *Supported by funds from the M&T Charitable Foundation.*

Children Summer Storytimes

Fridays, July 7, 14, 21 and 28, 10:30 a.m.

Join Miss Lauren each week for stories, songs, crafts and more! This summer's themes include: July 7 picnics; July 14 bugs; July 21 the beach; July 28 pirates. For ages 3-5. All children must be with a guardian and siblings of all ages are welcome to join.

Crafter's Corner: Pinwheels

Saturday, July 8, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Make your own pinwheel using paper, pipe cleaners and straws. Show off your creativity and decorate your pinwheel however you choose. All supplies will be provided. For ages 5-12.

Build a Better Bubble with Doug Rougeux

Monday, July 10, 2:00 p.m.

Watch bubble pro Doug Rougeux Build Better Bubbles. Experience hands on tips and tricks for better bubbling! For all ages. *Supported by funds from the M&T Charitable Foundation.*

Eureka! Discover, Understand, Build

Thursday, July 13, 2:30 p.m.

Build some common machines with simplified parts as The MOST Summer Library Program presents interactive fun. Find out how people get energy from the wind, sun, and water. For ages 6-12. *Made possible in part by a state grant secured by Senator John A. DeFrancisco.*

Paws and Books

Saturdays, July 15 and 29, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy reading a story to Cooper, a trained, lovable dog certified as a Canine Good Citizen. For ages 5 - 12.

Zoo to You

Thursday, July 20, 2:30 p.m.

See animals up close! The world of reading comes alive with this fun program that brings you face-to-face with exciting zoo animals. Get hands-on with the zoo's one-of-a-kind animal artifacts. For ages 5-12. *Made possible in part by a state grant secured by Senator John A. DeFrancisco.*

For Teens & Adults:

Citizen Preparedness Program

Tuesday, July 11, 2:00 - 3:00 pm



Do you know what to do in the event of a natural or man-made disaster?

A representative from the Onondaga County Department

of Emergency Management will instruct on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Free disaster preparedness items will be given to the first 20 audience members. Please register in advance by calling (315) 435-5326.

For Children - *continued*

Button Maker

Saturday, July 22, 9:00-4:30 p.m.

Join us anytime on Saturday to make your very own pinback button. First you'll create your design and then we will show you how your design can be made into a button. For ages 5– 12.

For Teens

Follow us on Twitter @hazardteens!

Summer Learning Challenge

"Make Your Summer@Hazard Branch" is open to students entering 7th grade through 12th grade.

How does it work?

1. Sign up to join the program at your local library or online.
2. Read books, attend special programs, help out, and have fun.
3. Talk to or e-mail your librarian or log on to report on your books.

Earn digital badges and show off your skills and achievements on your social media network.

Sign up today!

Drawing Basics with Phil McAndrew

Wednesday, July 12, 2:00 p.m.

Join cartoonist Phil McAndrew to learn the basics of cartooning from a real pro! Phil contributes comics and humor to *MAD Magazine*, and has also illustrated several books. Take advantage of his expertise to learn how to draw your own comics.

Stop Motion Commotion

Wednesday, July 19, 2:00 p.m.

Using iPads, we will be creating our own stop-motion animation films. At the end of the program, we will have a mini film festival where we will watch all the films we have created. iPads are limited, so please register in advance by calling (315) 435-5326.

Make Your Own Paper Drum Machine

Wednesday, July 26, 2:00 p.m.

Bring your artwork to life with Makey Makeys! Using pencils and paper, you can connect your artwork to a jam station on the computer and get ready to rock out! Space is limited, so please register in advance by calling (315) 435-5326.

For Teens - *continued*

Book-a-Librarian: Teen Edition

Heading to college soon or looking for a great first job? Sign up for a one-on-one session for help with filling out college applications or applying for a job. Get help with cover letters, college admission essays, building a resume or anything else that you might need. Call (315) 435-5326 for an appointment with Shauna. For ages 13-19.

For Teens and Adults

Computers for Beginners

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

One-on-one instruction on Internet searching, word processing, e-mail and more is available by appointment. Please call Jennifer at (315) 435-5326.

Job Search Help By Appointment

Need help finding a job? Applying online? Creating a resume? Call Jennifer at (315) 435-5326 to make an appointment.

Book A Librarian By Appointment

Help with ebooks, laptops, smartphones, iPads™, Word, Excel and more. For an appointment call Jennifer at (315) 435-5326.

High School Equivalency Classes by Appointment

Hazard Library and The Newland Center have partnered to provide High School Equivalency (HSE) instruction at the library. Call Linda at (315) 471-1446 and ask to schedule a time for tutoring at Hazard Branch.

For Everyone

Hazard Branch Knitters Club

Saturdays, July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Join Hazard's needle work creators for knitting, crocheting and needlepoint. Beginners and advanced needle workers are welcome. Bring your own supplies and share needle work knowledge with your peers!

Hazard Branch Ongoing Book Sale

Browse our selection of adult and children's books and media items we have for sale every day throughout the year. You're sure to find something you'll like and at a bargain price! All proceeds benefit the library.



Look for Hazard Library -
Onondaga County Public Library System

Please advise the Onondaga County Public Library at least five days in advance should you need a sign or other language interpreter, an assistive listening system, or any other accommodation to facilitate your participation at an event.

Mark Allnatt, a Program Title VI Coordinator for OCPL, can be contacted by telephone at (315) 435-1876 or by e-mail at mallnatt@onlib.org for more information.

The Church of St. Mark the Evangelist
Vestry Meeting Minutes, Monday, May 22, 2017

Present: Father Adrian A. Amaya, Phyllis Honsinger, Barry Guinn, Nancy Morrison, Kathi Phillips, Gary Smith, Jim Oliver, Debra Richardson, Patrick Dunn, Julie Dunn, Cherry Ottey, Dennis Eberline
Clerk: Debra Denny

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Father Amaya at 7:29pm
2. Opening Prayer: Fr. Amaya led the Opening Prayer.
3. Minutes from April Meeting – Kathi Phillips moved the April minutes be approved as corrected; Julie Dunn seconded. Passed.
4. Treasurer Report: An overall financial report was presented with a notation that an additional cost will now be added for new secretary and the church will be receiving a bequest of \$25,000 from the estate of Robert Oliver. Patrick Dunn, treasurer, recommended the estate monies be used to pay off the parking lot loan.

5. Business:

Parking Lot – Discussion initiated as to whether to pay off the parking lot loan to Merrill Lynch or go ahead with the loan payments at low interest. Dennis Eberline made a motion to pay off the loan with current church funds to be replaced when estate money (bequeathed by Robert Oliver in the amount of \$25,000) becomes available, estimated to be sometime in the fall. Barry Guinn 2nd motion. Passed.

Summer Worship — It was decided that summer worship will be in the sanctuary and moved to the undercroft only in the event of extreme summer heat, citing health reasons. The celebrant or worship-leader will make the decision to move to the undercroft on that day if necessary and the undercroft will be prepared for worship just in case a move is warranted.

Spring Clean-Up – Father Amaya suggested an early weekday evening be set aside in June for cleanup. Barry Guinn proposed Monday, June 5, 5:30-7:30, and it is projected clean up could be done in that one timeframe with enough volunteers (approximately 5-10) The Youth Group will be reached out to for their help and pizza and drinks will be provided.

Vestry Day – Barry Guinn apprised Vestry members of the opportunity for clergy and vestries to spend the day with Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe on June 3 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Syracuse. A Working Well Together event is planned and will also include Canons John Crosswaite and Carrie Schofield-Broadbent. It is designed to help those attending discover strategies for building up and maintaining healthy vestries and congregations, to learn how the bishop, Canons and staff partner with our vestry and district to help the entire diocesan community work together. Fr. Amaya encour-

aged attendance if possible.

Church Picnic – Set for Sept. 10 in Shove Park. This will be the first Sunday after school starts and it is hoped the weather will be more cooperative in September than picnics held previously in June.

Guest Speakers – Nancy Morrison suggested the church invite John Tumino of In My Father's Kitchen to speak at a Coffee Hour sometime after summer. Dennis Eberline recommended when a date is set, it should be published well in advance. Debra Richardson said she recently visited Joseph's House, a pro-life ministry for young women confronted with an unwanted pregnancy, suggesting the founder of that facility also be invited to speak after summer. Debra R. will get Father Adrian her name and contact and he will reach out to her and Mr. Tumino about being a guest speaker.

Mustang's Retreat – Debra Richardson announced The Mustangs have planned a retreat for Sept. 22-24 at St. Margaret's House in New Hartford and there is still room if any women would like to attend.

Bottle/Can & Ink Cartridge Drive – Debra Richardson informed the Vestry that The Mustangs want to reinstate the Can/Bottle & Ink Cartridge Drive to help raise funds for the Youth Group. The Vestry concurred this would be a good idea and Barry Guinn proposed the Youth Group head it up. Fr. Amaya suggested a partnering between The Mustangs and the Youth Group so The Mustangs can help and guide them. A bin will need to be reestablished at the church for this.

6. Warden's Report – Warden's Report included a discussion of the wearing of name tags by leadership and congregation once a month to help people get to know each other. Fr. Amaya will take care of getting the name tags for implementation.

7. Rector's Report – Fr. Amaya informed the vestry that his vacation time will most likely be taken in late June through early July with an additional week to be taken at some point in the fall. Coverage for services will be provided by layman.

8. Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Amaya

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made Dennis Eberline and 2nd by Nancy Morrison. Meeting adjourned 8:57pm

Next Vestry Meeting: Monday, June 19, 7 p.m.



Wind and Flame

by Susan Delaney Spear

"If you will, you can become all flame."

—Abba Joseph

The wind is wild; the fire is not tame.
You mouth the prayers, recite the ancient creed.
If you will, you can become all flame.

You scour the Scriptures, making truth your aim.
You advertise your goodness, deed by deed.
The wind is wild; the fire is not tame.

You pay your tithe to stake a heavenly claim.
You aid the poor to justify your greed.
If you will, you can become all flame.

You pass the peace and play your high church game.
Yawning at tradition, you accede.
The wind is wild; the fire is not tame.

With your voice you sing and praise God's name
Then utter words that cut and make men bleed.
If you will, you can become all flame.

Refining fire and wind want to reclaim
You. They'll sear and burn and not recede.
The wind is wild; the fire is not tame.
But if you will, you can become all flame.



<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/wind-and-flame>

God is ... Black?

by Drew G. I. Hart

Love sees injustice and refuses to remain silent.

Love can be gentle and kind but will also cause a scene when necessary.

Love clashes and confronts the powers and authorities that crush precious life.

But don't get it twisted, it is dangerous being love.

Love is denigrated and downplayed, taunted and teased.

Walls are built and bans are imposed to keep love out.

Love seeks sanctuary and is undocumented since what is deemed "very good" is legislated as bad.

Love is awkwardly visible in public, constantly profiled, and routinely executed in the street.

Love is shackled, caged, and deemed dangerous when free.

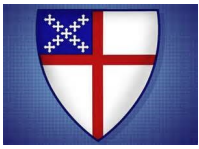
Love is always vulnerable and yet will never be trumped.

Love never ends.

God is...



<https://www.christiancentury.org/blog-post/taking-jesus-seriously/god-%C2%A0%C2%A0-black>



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:

